



European Commission



## THE OUTERMOST REGIONS EUROPEAN LANDS IN THE WORLD

A PRIVILEGED, RENEWED AND STRENGTHENED PARTNERSHIP



*'I have always paid particular attention to the nine regions which we refer to as the Outermost Regions. They are first and foremost European regions that provide a European presence in the world. This strategy, which is the basis for a privileged, renewed and reinforced partnership is a further practical example of a Europe that protects, empowers and offers equal opportunities for everyone.'*

Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission

The nine Outermost Regions – real outposts of Europe in the world – are located thousands of kilometres away from continental Europe. The European Union seeks to overcome this distance by paying them particular attention, with a privileged partnership. Today, this partnership has new wind in its sails.

### AN UPDATED STRATEGY

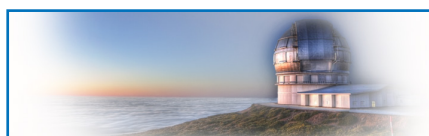
► to take better account of their **SPECIFIC NATURE**



The regions concerned are a long way from the European mainland, they are highly vulnerable to climate change and they are dependent on a few local products.

Each of these nine regions is unique. They all have resources which, with **tailored support from the EU**, can be turned into real competitive assets in a globalised economy.

► to help them to make better use of their **ASSETS**



The Outermost Regions ensure that Europe has a **foothold in strategic parts of the globe**.

They provide a valuable testing-ground for **research and innovation** in sectors such as the blue economy, pharmacology and space sciences.

The EU wishes to help them to **identify their assets and make intelligent use of them**.

► and to offer **OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL**



The **unemployment rate** remains higher than the EU average, whilst GDP and educational levels are lower.

Young people are those most affected. The EU wishes to offer them an opportunity to acquire **skills and experience** with a view to entering the labour market or setting up their own business.

## WITH MEASURES GEARED TO THEIR REALITY



### A stronger **PARTNERSHIP** with the EU

**It is a form of cooperation which will be deepened** between the Outermost Regions, their respective Member States and the Commission, so as to take better account of their interests and specific limitations.

Closer dialogue will be sought in the drafting and implementation of EU policies. The Commission will offer Customised support in order to solve specific problems will be offered.



### Modernisation of **TRADITIONAL SECTORS**

#### **Sustainable development on the fisheries sector**

The Commission will look, for example, at the relevance of state aid for building new vessels for the Outermost Regions' local fleet.

#### **Modernisation of agricultural production, to make it more competitive**

The Commission will seek the continuation of the POSEI programmes containing special agriculture-related measures and seek to maintain specific conditions in the regions' rural-development programmes.



### Territories that intelligently **EXPLOIT THEIR ASSETS**

**The strategy will encourage investment** in growth-enhancing sectors such as research, the blue economy, responsible tourism and renewable energies.

A new initiative will be dedicated to them under the Juncker Plan, and the Outermost Regions' research activities will be promoted in order to encourage their participation in Horizon 2020.



### Helping them to adapt to **CLIMATE CHANGE**

The Outermost Regions are **highly vulnerable to climate change**, in particular phenomena such as rising sea levels and extreme weather.

The strategy will aim to better incorporate the specific challenges faced by the Outermost Regions into the EU's adaptation strategy and into European programmes such as LIFE.



### **OPPORTUNITIES** for all

The Outermost Regions need support if they are to **enhance employability and skills**, in particular for young people.

The aim of the strategy is to underpin exchanges in higher education and training and to provide financial support for the mobility of young people and professionals in the Erasmus + and European Solidarity Corps programmes.



### **ENHANCED COOPERATION** with their neighbours

**The development of the Outermost Regions will be achieved by integrating them more closely** in the EU's internal market and in the markets of their neighbouring countries.

The strategy will help them to deepen their ties with their neighbours by encouraging the development of key joint projects which may, in future, benefit from various sources of European funding.



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